Know Your Prophet

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All praise is due to Allaah who clarified for us the path of guidance and removed from us the darkness of misguidance. May He send salutations and exalt the mention of the chosen Prophet, our Prophet Muhammad who was sent as a mercy to humanity and an example to be followed, his family and all his companions, and those who rightly follow them until the Day of Resurrection.

O Muslims! The best way to spend our time is by studying the biography of the Prophet (ﷺ). This will make us feel as though we are living those great days with the Prophet (ﷺ) which the early Muslims lived, and allow us to imagine that we are amongst those honorable and righteous people, upon whose shoulders the great mansion of might and honor was established.

Studying the biography of the Prophet (ﷺ) enlightens the Muslim about the different qualities of the Prophet's personality, as well the way he conducted himself in his life, at times of war and peace, and the method in which he propagated Islaam. In addition, the Muslim will discover the causes of victory and defeat, areas of weakness and strength, and how to deal with arising events, no matter how great or difficult they may be. Moreover,

studying his biography makes Muslims regain self-confidence and become certain that Allaah is with them and will support them if they perform their duties towards Him, by fulfilling servitude to Him and adhering to His legislation. Allaah says what means, ***"O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allaah, He will help you."*** *(Muhammad:7)* He also said, ***"Verily, Allaah will help those who help His (Cause). Truly, Allaah is All-Strong, All-Mighty."*** *(Al-Hajj:40)*

The following pages are highlights from the life of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), and they are meant to pave the way as an initial step for those who desire to deeply study his biography, Allaah says what means, ***"Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah."*** *(Al-Fath:29)*

His lineage: He is *Abu Al-Qaasim, Muhammad Ibn 'Abdullaah Ibn 'Abdul-Lateef Ibn Haashim Ibn 'Abdu Manaaf Ibn Qusai Ibn Kilaab Ibn Murrah Ibn Ka'b Ibn Lu'ai Ibn Ghaalib Ibn Fahr Ibn Maalik Ibn An-Nadhr Ibn Kanaanah Ibn Khuzaymah Ibn Madrakah Ibn Ilyaas Ibn Mudhar Ibn Nizaar Ibn Ma'd Ibn 'Adnaan*. No one disputed regarding the lineage of the Prophet (ﷺ), and it is known that *'Adnaan* (the last name in his chain) is the son of Prophet *Ismaa'eel* (عليه السلام).

His names: *Jubayr Ibn Mut'im* (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, **"I have different names; I am Muhammad, Ahmad, Al-Maahi** (the obliterator) **by which Allaah obliterates infidelity, Al-Haashir** (the sign for resurrection) **after whom people will be resurrected** (the Hour will come)**, and Al-'Aaqib** (the final) **after which there will be no other prophet."** *(Bukhaari & Muslim) Abu Moosaa Al-Ash'ari* (رضي الله عنه) said that the Prophet (ﷺ) informed us of his names saying, **"I am Muhammad, Ahmad, Al-Muqaffi** (the final)**, Al -Haashir, the Prophet of repentance** (i.e., he guided people to repentance)**, and the Prophet of mercy** (i.e., he was sent as a mercy)." *(Muslim)*

The purity of his lineage: Dear Muslims! Know that the Prophet (ﷺ) is above all creation in rank, and that Allaah protected his forefathers from adultery and fornication. He (ﷺ) was born as a result of a sound pure marriage and not as a result of an illicit sexual relation. *Waathilah Ibn Al-Asqa'* (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, **"Allaah (عز وجل) selected Ismaa'eel from amongst the children of Ibraaheem, and selected Kanaanah from the descendants of Ismaa'eel. He selected Quraysh from Kanaanah, and selected the tribe of Haashim from Quraysh, and He chose me from**

the tribe of Haashim." *(Muslim)*

His birth: He (ﷺ) was born on a Monday, the second of *Rabee' Al-Awwal*, (other narrations say he was born on either the eighth, the tenth or the twelfth) during the year of the elephant (when *Makkah* was attacked by the army riding elephants). His father died during his mother's pregnancy according to the most authentic narrations.

His breastfeeding: *Thuwaybah* the servant of *Abu Lahab* breast fed him for a few days, then his family sought another breast feeding lady from the tribe of *Banu Sa'd.* Thereafter, *Haleemah As-Sa'diyyah* breast fed him, and he stayed with her amongst the tribe of *Banu Sa'd* until he was four years of age, at which point his heart was opened (by the angel Jibreel) and was purified from the effects of Satan. *Haleemah* returned him (ﷺ) to his mother after that.

When he (ﷺ) turned six, his mother died during a trip returning to *Makkah* from an area named *Al-Abwaa'*. Later after he became a prophet, when he once passed by this area, he sought permission from his Lord to visit the grave of his mother. Allaah granted him permission, and he visited her grave and cried until he made the people around him cry. He

then said, **“Visit the graves, for they will remind you of death.”** *(Muslim)*

After his mother died, *Umm Ayman* (a slave who he inherited from his father) cared for him, and his grandfather, *‘Abdul-Muttalib*, financially supported and looked after him until he (ﷺ) reached the age of eight. At that time, his grandfather died and instructed before his death that his uncle *Abu Taalib* support him and look after him. His uncle took good care of him, protected and supported him when he received the message, even though he remained as an infidel until death. Due to this support and protection, Allaah reduced his punishment in Hell, as the Prophet (ﷺ) stated.

The protection of Allaah over him from the evil acts of the pre-Islamic era (*Jahiliyyah-the days of ignorance*): Allaah protected the Prophet (ﷺ) during his youth and purified him from the filth and evil which people practiced during the pre-Islamic era. Allaah granted him the noblest of manners until he came to be known amongst people as ‘The Trustworthy’, all due to the honesty, purity and truthfulness they observed in his character.

His marriage: *Khadeejah* (رضي الله عنها) married him when he (ﷺ) was twenty five. The Prophet (ﷺ) had

returned from a business trip he took with her merchandise to *Shaam* with *Maysarah*, one of her slaves. He had observed the Prophet's (ﷺ) impressive qualities as well as the honesty and truthfulness with which he dealt with people. Upon their return, *Maysarah* informed *Khadeejah* (رضي الله عنها), and this made her want to marry him, and so she subsequently proposed to him.

Khadeejah (رضي الله عنها) died three years before the migration of the Prophet (ﷺ) to *Madeenah,* and he (ﷺ) had not married any one else during the time he spent with her. After her death, he (ﷺ) married *Sawdah Bint Za'ah* (رضي الله عنها), and then *'Aa'ishah* the daughter of *Abu Bakr,* may Allaah be pleased with them both. She was the only virgin amongst all his wives. After her, he (ﷺ) married *Hafsah* the daughter of *'Umar Ibn Al-Khattaab,* may Allaah be pleased with them both, and then subsequently married *Zaynab Bint Khuzaymah* (رضي الله عنها), *Umm Salamah* (رضي الله عنها) (*Hind Bint Umayyah*), *Zaynab Bint Jahsh* (رضي الله عنها), and *Juwayriyyah Bint Haarith* (رضي الله عنها). He (ﷺ) then married *Umm Habeebah* (رضي الله عنها) (*Ramlah* and in another narration *Hind Bint Abu Sufyaan)*, and after the conquest of *Khaybar,* he (ﷺ) married *Safiyyah Bint Huyay Ibn Al-Akhtab* (رضي الله عنها). His last wife was *Maymoonah Bint Al-Haarith* (رضي الله عنها).

His Children: All the children of the Prophet (ﷺ) were born from his wife *Khadeejah* (رضي الله عنها), except *Ibraaheem* (رضي الله عنه). He was born from *Mariyah Al-Qibtiyyah*, who was given to him as a gift by *Al-Muqawqas*. His sons were, *Al-Qaasim,* who lived for just a few days, *At-Taahir* and *At-Tayyib.* There is a narration which says that the last two are nicknames to a son whom he named *'Abdullaah*. Regarding his son *Ibraaheem,* he was born in *Madeenah* and lived for twenty two months. His daughters were *Zaynab* (رضي الله عنها) (the eldest), who married her maternal cousin *Abu Al-'Aas Ibn Ar-Rabee'* (رضي الله عنه); *Ruqayyah* (رضي الله عنها) who married *'Uthmaan Ibn 'Affaan* (رضي الله عنه); and *Faatimah* (رضي الله عنها) who married *'Ali Ibn Abu Taalib* (رضي الله عنه). She gave birth to *Al-Hasan* and *Al-Husayn,* may Allaah be pleased with them both, the leaders of the young men amongst the dwellers of Paradise. *Umm Kulthoom* (رضي الله عنها) was another of his daughters who married *'Uthmaan Ibn 'Affaan* (رضي الله عنه) after the death of *Ruqayyah* (رضي الله عنها). *Imaam An-Nawawi*, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said, *"There is no doubt that the Prophet* (ﷺ) *had four daughters and three sons according to the most authentic narrations."*

His Prophethood (ﷺ): The Prophet (ﷺ) received revelation at the age of forty. *Jibreel* came down to him while he was in the cave of *Hiraa'* on

Monday, the seventeenth of *Ramadhaan,* and whenever he (ﷺ) would receive revelation, his facial expression would change.

When *Jibreel* came down to the Prophet (ﷺ), he said to him (ﷺ), **"Recite!"** The Prophet (ﷺ) replied, **"I do not know how to recite!"** Then the angel squeezed him until he (ﷺ) became extremely exhausted. *Jibreel* said to him (ﷺ) again, **"Recite!"** The Prophet (ﷺ) replied, **"I do not know how to recite!"** This occurred three times, then *Jibreel* recited to him the verses where Allaah says what means, ***"Read! In the Name of your Lord Who has created (all that exists). He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught (the writing) by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not."*** *(Al-'Alaq:1-5).* The Prophet (ﷺ) then returned to *Khadeejah* (رضي الله عنها) shivering out of fear and informed her with what happened. Thereupon she consolidated him saying, **"Glad tidings to you, I swear by Allaah! Allaah will never disgrace you; You maintain good ties with kinfolks, you always speak the truth, you bear the burden of the weak, and you help others during adversities."**

The revelations paused for a period which Allaah

willed, until the Prophet (ﷺ) felt depressed and longed to receive it again. He (ﷺ) then saw an angel in the horizon sitting on a chair between the heavens and earth. The angel gave glad tidings to him (ﷺ) that he was truly the Messenger of Allaah. When he saw him, he (ﷺ) became very scared and returned to *Khadeejah* (رضي الله عنها) exclaiming: **"Cover me! Cover me!"** Then Allaah revealed upon him the verses where Allaah says what means: ***"O you (Muhammad) enveloped in garments! Arise and warn! And magnify your Lord (Allaah)! And purify your garments!"*** *(Al-Muddaththir:1-4)* In these verses, Allaah commanded him to warn his people and call to Allaah, so he shouldered this responsibility and obeyed Allaah in a perfect and a complete manner. He started to call people to Allaah, old and young, slaves and the free, men and women, black and white.

His perseverance: The Prophet (ﷺ) faced much difficulty and harm from his people, yet he persevered hoping for the reward from his Lord. He commanded his companions to leave for Ethiopia in order to escape oppression and torture. *Imaam Bukhaari* and *Muslim* reported that once while the Prophet (ﷺ) was praying, some people from the *Quraysh* placed the bowels of a slaughtered animal

next to him, then *'Uqbah Ibn Abu Ma'eet* took them and placed on his back while he (ﷺ) was prostrating. The Prophet's daughter *Faatimah* (رضي الله عنها) removed them, and the Prophet (ﷺ) finished his prayer and supplicated to Allaah saying, **"O Allaah! Punish the elite of Quraysh!"** One day *'Uqbah Ibn Abu Ma'eet* held the Prophet (ﷺ) by his shoulder, twisted his neck and shook him until *Abu Bakr* (رضي الله عنه) came and pushed him away saying, **"Will you kill a man just because he says that my Lord is Allaah?"** *(Bukhaari)*

His mercy with his people: After the death of his wife *Khadeejah* (رضي الله عنها) and his uncle *Abu Taalib,* people applied more pressure on the Prophet (ﷺ) and harmed him. So he left the boundaries of Makkah and headed towards *Taa'if.* There he called the tribes of *Thaqeef* to Islam, but they were stubborn and refused his message and mocked and harmed him (ﷺ). They threw rocks at him until his feet started bleeding, so he set out to return to Makkah. The Prophet (ﷺ) said, **"I took off from Taa'if depressed, wearied and grieved heedless of anything around me, until I suddenly realized I was in Qarn Ath-Tha`aalib. There, I looked up and saw a cloud casting its shade on me, and I looked deeper and saw *Jibreel*. He addressed me**

saying, 'Allaah has heard your people's words and sent you the angel of mountains to your aid so you may command him with whatever you wish.' The angel of mountains called and gave me his greetings and said, 'O Muhammad! Allaah has heard your people's words and I am the angel of mountains. Allaah has sent me to your aid so you may command me with whatever you wish. If you wish I will bury them between *Al-Akhshabayn* (two mountains in Makkah).' The Prophet (ﷺ) said, 'No! I hope that Allaah will bring from their offspring those who would worship Allaah alone.' " *(Bukhaari & Muslim)*

His migration to Madeenah: After that, the Prophet (ﷺ) set out towards *Madeenah* along with *Abu Bakr* (رضي الله عنه). He headed to the cave called *Thawr* and stayed therein for three days, and the *Quraysh* was unable to trace them. He then entered *Madeenah* and was received with great joy and hospitality from its residents. There he built his mosque and home.

His battles: *Ibn 'Abbaas* (رضي الله عنه) said, **"When the Prophet (ﷺ) left Makkah, Abu Bakr said, 'They (Quraysh) forced their Prophet out, I swear by Allaah they will be destroyed,' so Allaah revealed what means, *'Permission to fight (against***

disbelievers) is given to those (believers) who are fought against, because they have been wronged.' *(Al-Hajj:39)* **It was the first verse to be revealed regarding Jihaad."**

The Prophet (ﷺ) fought twenty seven battles, of which nine were led by him himself. They were the battles of *Badr, Uhud, Al-Muraysee', Al-Khandaq, Quraythah, Khaybar, the conquest of Makkah, Hunayn, and Taa'if.*

His pilgrimage: The Prophet (ﷺ) did not perform *Hajj* (pilgrimage) after his migration to *Madeenah* except once, which was called the farewell pilgrimage. He did though perform four *'Umrah* (minor pilgrimage), all of which were during the month of *Thul-Qa'dah,* except the one he performed during his farewell *Hajj*.

His physical description: The Prophet (ﷺ) was neither tall nor short. His face was rosy in color and he had full hair on his head. He had very black eyes, and he had no hair on his chest and stomach except for a vertical line of hair coming down from his chest to his stomach.

His manners: The Prophet (ﷺ) was the most generous of all people; he was truthful, lenient, gentle, and kind. Allaah says what means, ***"And***

verily you (O Muhammad ﷺ) are on an exalted (standard of) character." *(Al-Qalam:4)* He (ﷺ) was the bravest of people, humble and bashful. He accepted gifts and returned them with that which was better. He refused charity and never consumed it. He never became angry for a personal issue, but only when it was related to adhering to the commandments of Allaah. He used to eat whatever was available and ready. He never ate in a resting position. Two months would pass without fire being lit for cooking in his houses. He used to sit with the poor and needy, visit the sick and accompany funerals.

His Virtues: *Jaabir Ibn 'Abdullaah* (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, **"I was given five things which none were given before me: I am victorious by virtue of fear (the enemy fearing him) from as far a distance as a month's journey; war-booty has been made lawful for me while before me it was not; all the earth has been made as a pure place for me to pray, so whenever the time for prayer comes upon any man from my nation, then let him pray wherever he may be; I have been granted intercession; and all Prophets were sent specifically to their people, but I have been sent to all mankind."** *(Bukhaari & Muslim)*

Anas (رضي الله عنه) narrated that he (ﷺ) said, **“I am the first to intercede for people on the Day of Resurrection, I am the one with the most followers amongst all Prophets on the Day of Resurrection, and I am the first to enter the Gate of Paradise.”** *(Muslim)*

Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, **“I am the leader of the children of Aadam on the Day of Resurrection, I will be the first to be resurrected on the Day of Resurrection, and I am the first to seek permission to intercede and the first to intercede”** *(Muslim)*

His devotion in worship and his lifestyle: *‘Aa’ishah* (رضي الله عنها) said that the Prophet (ﷺ) used to pray the night supererogatory prayer until his feet would crack open, so he was asked about the reason behind that and he replied, **“Shouldn’t I be a grateful slave?”** *(Bukhaari & Muslim)* She (رضي الله عنها) also said, **“His mattress on which he used to sleep was made out of animal leather stuffed with fibres.”** *Ibn ‘Umar* (رضي الله عنه) said, **“I saw the Messenger (ﷺ) having stomach pain out of hunger and not even finding the worst type of dates to eat.”**

All that he faced during his lifetime did not harm him in the least, for he remains to be the leader of all

creation in this life and in the Hereafter. We thank Allaah for making us from amongst his nation.